



Wednesday, December 21, 2022
All Places Together & Technicolor Ministries
Zoom

[Spotify Playlist Prelude](#)

Opening Dialogue & Greeting

Gathered on the longest night of the year,
we seek God's peace:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Amid our grief for relationships lost to death, distance, and discord,
we seek God's comfort:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Seeking reconciliation that feels too far off,
we seek God's hope.

Come, Lord Jesus.

From the one who was, who is, and who is to come:

Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

³ You have made the nation great;
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.

⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Parent, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness
now and forever.

Pause for reflection.

Second Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people!
says your God.

² Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,
that her penalty has been paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins!

³ A voice is crying out:
"Clear the Lord's way in the desert!
Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!

⁴ Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.
Uneven ground will become level,
and rough terrain a valley plain.

⁵ The Lord's glory will appear,
and all humanity will see it together;
the Lord's mouth has commanded it."

⁶ A voice was saying:
"Call out!"

And another said,

"What should I call out?"

All flesh is grass;
all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass dries up
and the flower withers
when the Lord's breath blows on it.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass dries up;
the flower withers,
but our God's word will exist forever.

⁹ Go up on a high mountain,
messenger Zion!

Raise your voice and shout,
messenger Jerusalem!

Raise it; don't be afraid;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰ Here is the Lord God,
coming with strength,
with a triumphant arm,
bringing his reward with him
and his payment before him.

¹¹ Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;
he will gather lambs in his arms
and lift them onto his lap.
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

Pause for reflection.

Third Reading Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. ³⁰ My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”

Pause for reflection.

Fourth Reading John 1:1-5, 14

¹ In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

² The Word was with God in the beginning.

³ Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being

⁴ through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh

and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Pause for reflection.

Reflection by Pastor Katy

Confession & Forgiveness

Holy and gracious God,

we confess that we have sinned against you this day.

Some of our sin we know—

the thoughts and words and deeds

of which we are ashamed—

but some is known only to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness.

Deliver and restore us,

that we may rest in peace.

Amen.

By the mercy of God

we are united with Jesus Christ,

in whom we are forgiven.

We rest now in the peace of Christ

and rise in the morning to serve.

Amen.

Communion

As the shadows lengthen,

we bless you, sheltering God.

We glorify you for the endless, starlit sky,
deep with the mystery of your creative labor
through all time and space.

We praise you for the fertile earth
and for the life its darkness holds and births:
plants of every variety,
animals curled in sleep,
humankind you shaped by your own hand.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

Through the night
you led your people into freedom.
At day's end
you rained down manna in the wilderness.
At sundown
your Son brought healing to people in need.
In the midday night
when Jesus died on the cross,
life came forth for all.
Stay with us, for it is evening.
Stay with us, for it is evening.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Our hearts burn within us
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Like a mother hen,
hold us close through the coming night.
Watch with those who labor,
accompany those who long for peaceful sleep,

welcome those whose waking will be only in you.
Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit,
make here the body of Christ:
in the breaking of the bread,
in justice for our broken world,
in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

To you, O God,
painter of both night and day,
guiding star and healing sun,
breath of peace and wind of change,
be all glory, all honor, all praise
this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever.

Amen.

O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you;
May we work with you to establish your new order of justice peace and love;
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil,
For all tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Final Prayer & Blessing

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's holy darkness enfold you and grant you rest.

May God nourish a seed of hope among us.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Lord's Prayer interpretation by Bill Wallace

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